

EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANTS (ESG) OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE #1:

Provide quality Emergency Shelter services to homeless women and children and people with disabilities in Cambridge

In FY2005, the City of Cambridge envisages awarding funding to homeless shelters that will specifically serve approximately 990 single homeless women and homeless children and families and people with disabilities.

Expected Resources

- ***Federal Funds***
 - Community Development Block Grant Program
 - McKinney ESG Funds
 - McKinney SHP Funds
- **State Funds**
 - Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
 - Department of Social Services
 - Department of Transitional Assistance
 - Massachusetts Shelter & Housing Alliance
- ***Local Funds***
 - City of Cambridge Tax Dollars
 - Cambridge Housing Assistance Fund (private donors)
 - Cambridge Fund for Housing (private donors)
 - Harvard
 - Private Fundraising
 - United Way

Strategies

Targeting Compassionate and Effective Organizations Working with Homeless Women & Families and People with Disabilities: An RFP will be circulated to homeless services providers in the area. Then a group of stakeholders from the City's Department of Human Service Programs including the coordinator of the Cambridge Continuum of Homeless Service Providers will meet to review proposals and to decide on the needs of the target population. Based on our working relationships with a number of providers, we plan to fund the following organizations and programs:

1. Shelter Inc.'s Women's Day Drop-In, which provides daytime support and services to homeless women. It is primarily a safe-haven to help this vulnerable population off the streets. Services include:
 - Crisis intervention;
 - One-on-one counseling;
 - Weekly visits from Health Care for the Homeless; and

- Referrals for mental health, substance abuse, tertiary health care, job, training, legal services, and housing search.

The FY2004 ESG for \$27,500 funded operating costs including salaries for the program coordinator and specialist, food and training. We anticipate funding this program at a similar level for the coming year.

2. Shelter Inc.'s Shelter + Care program provides stabilization services to between 8 and 12 homeless men and women with disabilities per year. The program helps these individuals transition into their own homes and to successfully live independently. An important element of this program is that it allows homeless households whose negative housing histories would have prevented them from receiving Section 8 vouchers to obtain subsidized and supported permanent housing. The FY2003 and '04 grants paid for part of the salary of the caseworker. As with previous recent years, the City hopes to fund this program in the realm of \$20,000 for the coming fiscal year.
3. The Hildebrand's Family Shelter provides emergency shelter for 34 families, 14 of whom are sheltered in Cambridge. Because their 24-hour shelter is so well utilized, it is in need of constant renovations. Funding for the past few years was used to make repairs to their house on 41-43 Columbia St, which was built in the first decade of the twentieth century and requires constant improvements. Due to cuts from the State, Hildebrand is now using some of the \$7 to \$8,000 per year funding to cover operating costs. The Family Shelter should be funded around this level for FY 2005.
4. Transition House became the first battered women's shelter in the US, and since then it has sheltered over 5,000 women and children. Its mission is to provide refuge, supportive services, education and empowerment skills to enable battered women to achieve financial independence for themselves and their families. Services include:
 - Post Traumatic Stress support group;
 - Economic literacy trainings;
 - Parent-support group; and
 - Self-care.The FY 2003 and 04 grants were for maintenance, utilities, and groceries and were in the range of \$9,000. We anticipate funding them at a similar level for FY 2005.
5. Catholic Charities' St. Patrick's Shelter last year provided shelter to over 250 individual homeless women. The shelter is the only emergency shelter for sober women in the area outside of Boston. Past grants have ranged between \$5 and \$6,000 and cover salaries enabling the shelter to remain open 24 hours/day. Having the shelter be open during the day allows homeless women to work night shifts so they can sleep during the day, which is especially important in an

- economic downturn when jobs are scarce. The City hopes to fund St Patrick's Shelter at a similar level this fiscal year.
6. HomeStart's Housing Placement Service is an intensive housing search service for homeless adults in Cambridge. Over the past five years, the program has served more than 245 homeless people and moved them into permanent housing. The program, which predominantly serves homeless women, assists with housing relocation costs such as security deposits, first and last month's rent and moving expenses. Previous ESG awards have been around \$5,000, and we anticipate funding at this level for FY 2005.
 7. CASPAR's wet shelter is open to men and women in Cambridge who are ineligible for other shelter services because of their active substance abuse. But due to lack of space, only 15% of clients are women. The shelter has on-site primary health care four times a week. Due to increased demand, CASPAR has increased capacity by 50% in one year- now over 107 people use the shelter a day. The FY 2003 and 04 grants were for approximately \$17,000 each for operating costs specifically food, maintenance, and utilities. The City will most likely fund this shelter at a similar level in the coming year.
 8. Phillips Brooks House, a non-profit organization working with Harvard University students runs two seasonal shelters that serve both 6 women and 6 men. It's Harvard volunteers run St James' Summer Shelter, which is located in St. James' Episcopal Church in Porter Square. It operates at night only through the summer months, and provides dinner and breakfast. Clients can make a lunch to carry to work, receive clean clothing and transportation vouchers. While it was not funded in FY 2004, its FY 03 grant of \$3,000 paid for salaries and overheads. They should receive an award in the same range for this fiscal year.
 9. Phillips Brooks House is now also administering the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter on its premises, which is run by its Harvard University Student volunteers. The entirely volunteer run facility within University Lutheran provides shelter to 5 women and 19 men each night through the winter. It is the only such facility in Harvard Square. The FY 2003 Grant of \$3,000 was for salaries and operating costs, and we hope to provide a similar amount for FY 2005.
 10. The Cambridge YWCA was founded in 1891 to serve the needs of women and children in Cambridge and surrounding communities. The YWCA provides residence and shelter services for 99 women and 10 families. While many of its residents were formally homeless, the YWCA also has a specific shelter exclusively available to 9 homeless women and 10 families at any given time. In FY 2004, they were awarded a grant of \$7,300 for operations costs for their shelter from the City, and we plan to give a similar award in FY 05.

OBJECTIVE #2:

Provide quality day drop-in services to homeless youth in Cambridge

In FY2005, the City of Cambridge plans to award ESG funding to a homeless services provider(s) that will serve over 230 homeless youths.

Expected Resources

- ***Federal Funds***
McKinney ESG Funds
McKinney SHP Funds
- ***State Funds***
Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Bureau for
Prevention & Education
- ***Local Funds***
Private Fundraising
Harvard-Epworth Church

Strategies

Targeting Youth-Friendly Organizations Working with Homeless Youth: The same RFP will be circulated to homeless services providers in the area, followed by the decision making process described in Objective 1. Based on our working relationships with a number of youth-focused providers, we plan to fund the following organization and program:

1. Cambridge Cares About AIDS (CCAA) Youth on Fire is CCAA's drop-in shelter for run away, homeless youth. This program was developed as a response to an increasing number of homeless youth in Cambridge with HIV due to practicing high-risk behaviors associated with living on the streets. It is the only shelter in Cambridge catering exclusively to youth. The program offers a safe, youth-focused environment in which youth can access:
 - Hot meals;
 - Clothing, laundry, hygiene products, and showers;
 - Healthcare services;
 - Computers and Voicemail boxes;
 - Job search services;
 - Life-skills workshops;
 - HIV counseling; and
 - General counseling and referral.

In FY 2003 and 04 Youth on Fire was awarded \$10,000 and \$7,500 respectively for operations costs, specifically for their rent. The City hopes to fund them within this range for the coming fiscal year.

OBJECTIVE #3:

Provide quality Emergency Shelter services to homeless men in Cambridge

The City of Cambridge intends to fund to homeless shelters that will serve a target of 2124 homeless men.

Expected Resources

- ***Federal Funds***
McKinney ESG Funds
McKinney SHP Funds
- ***Local Funds***
City of Cambridge Tax Dollars
Private Fundraising
Volunteers

Strategies

Targeting the most Effective Organizations Working with Homeless Men: As mentioned earlier, an RFP will be circulated to homeless services providers in Cambridge. Then a group of stakeholders from the City's Department of Human Service Programs including the coordinator of the Cambridge Continuum of Homeless Service Providers will decide on grant allocations for the best proposals serving homeless men in Cambridge. In addition to the programs listed above, the City envisions funding the following organizations and programs:

1. Bread & Jams is a process oriented non-profit run by formerly homeless for the homeless. Those currently homeless are key stakeholders in the organization, and participate in the decision making process. While Bread & Jams' ESG funding was in prior years used to support a van service for homeless individuals (70% are men), the funding in FY 2004 was for their Drop-In shelter. The City awarded Bread & Jams \$13,000 in FY 2004 and hope to give an award at this level for this fiscal year.
2. The Salvation Army operates a shelter open year round for up to 940 homeless men from the Cambridge area. ESG funding in FY 2003 and 04 provided approximately \$7,000 per year for utilities enabling the shelter to be a more inviting place for clients so reading lights and importantly the heat could be left on during the day in the winter. The City hopes to fund the Salvation Army's shelter at the same level for FY 05.

Emergency Shelter Grant
FY 2005 One-Year Action Plan
City of Cambridge